Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld's Advocacy Improves Water Quality at West Meadow Beach, and West Meadow Creek
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Another significant step in the West Meadow Beach and West Meadow Creek

Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld with contractors from DF Stone Contracting Ltd. upon completion of the new septic system at the Gamecock Cottage at West Meadow Beach.

Farmingville, NY - Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld gets the installation of the new eco-friendly forced main septic system completed at the recently restored Gamecock Cottage at West Meadow Beach. The new system utilizes two macerator septic pumps and a 150 gallon high density polythene (HDPE) storage tank. The installation of the new system came after many years of environmental review and scrutiny to assure the protection of the area’s water quality and to receive approvals from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Suffolk County Department of Health and the Town’s own Department of Environmental Protection.

"Installation of the new septic system is one of the most important elements to protect the water quality of West Meadow Beach and preserve the environmental integrity of this 'crown jewel' of Brookhaven’s parks," said Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld, "When the public input in the West Meadow Beach Restoration Master Plan was completed, it became my job as the local councilperson to see it implemented. This is yet another significant step to help preserve and protect the sensitive ecosystem of the park so it could be used by residents for educational, scientific and recreational purposes. We've accomplished so much already, but there's more work to do and I thank the Town's Parks Department for their continued efforts to help make this plan a reality."

In addition to installing the new septic system, the Town Parks Department and their outside contractors will soon conduct the next restoration phase of the historic Gamecock Cottage (c. 1860) by elevating it 2.5 to 3 feet. The cottage is located on the southern tip of the one mile long West Meadow Beach, known as "Shipman's Point." A historic forensic investigation of the cottage, which is on the National Historic Registry, has shown that over the last 100 years the structure has sunk into the sand causing ground floor flooding about twice a month with the lunar "neap" and "spring" tides. Restoration of the upstairs living space will also commence shortly in order to accommodate the Three Village Community Trust's caretaker during the summer months. The hiring of a caretaker...
follows the Town's License/ Stewardship agreement (signed in 2010) with the Three Village Community Trust, a not-for-profit 501c3. The agreement calls for the Trust to provide a caretaker at no expense to the taxpayer once restoration is completed, which is expected later this spring.

Councilman Fiore Rosenfeld also said that the ground floor of the Gamecock Cottage will occasionally be opened to the public for special viewing and for the use of one unisex bathroom only during "special events" at West Meadow Beach, including the annual Stony Brook Harbor Day celebration.

Robert de Zafra of the Civic Associations of the Setaukets and Stony Brook said, "This is an important step forward in protecting the water quality of West Meadow Creek as well as that of the Sand Street bathing beach, while providing live-in caretakers of the Gamecock Cottage with a safe and modern septic system for the first time since the Gamecock was built 150 years ago."

Herb Mones of the Three Village Community Trust said, "It is gratifying to learn the Town of Brookhaven is working so hard to protect our estuaries through the installation of an environmentally sensitive septic system, and at the same time secure the future of the Gamecock Cottage. Kudos to Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld and Parks Commissioner Ed Morris."

For more information about Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld's efforts to restore West Meadow Beach and his other environmental initiatives, visit www.brookhaven.org.